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"Another point I wish to refer to is if the Government wants to take up the Tungabhadra or Tungabhadra-Kistna project in the Ceded districts, they should conduct experiments to see how far the dry black cotton soil can be utilized for irrigation purposes. The original Tungabhadra project was intended to supply water for dry cultivation, to supply water for cholam and cotton crops. With regard to the question of irrigating the black cotton soil, no experiments have so far been made. If the Tungabhadra-Kistna project has to be successfully worked out, some portions of dry lands may have to be utilized for irrigation purposes."

* The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"Sir, my hon. Friend in charge of Irrigation wanted these experiments to be conducted. If the Government propose to carry out the same experiments in other places, the Department of Agriculture will certainly be very glad to help. The Agricultural Department is only helping the Irrigation Department in finding out what amount of water will be required, say, for an acre. It has been pointed out that the period of 10 months is a very short one. If necessary, it may be extended. We shall then come before this House and ask for further sanction.

"With regard to the remarks of my hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, the Agricultural Department would be very glad to carry out experiments and give facilities to any portion of the Ceded districts, if new schemes are introduced there."

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

The main demand for Rs. 100 was put and carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXIX—CIVIL WORKS—TRANSFERRED AND RESERVED.

* The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

'*that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Grant XXIX—Civil Works—Transferred and Reserved.*'

"This demand is to provide for electric installation in the residences of Government Officers in Guntur. I do not think it is necessary to make out a case for the introduction of electric installation in these buildings. As is stated in the note, the amount required for this purpose can be met by reappropriation. The Government will not be a loser if this work is carried out as the amount will be recovered by way of increased rent for the buildings. I hope the Council would be pleased to pass this motion."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXXII—FAMINE RELIEF—RESERVED.

* The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

'*that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 2,75,000 under Grant XXXII—Famine Relief—Reserved.*'

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"In the present budget estimates which have been sanctioned, the amount allotted under this head is Rs. 25,000. That was made in order to meet expenditure immediately if necessary to combat famine in any area. Unfortunately owing to the failure of crops in a small portion of the Bellary district, namely, in portions of the Bellary taluk and adjacent taluks, it was found necessary by the local officers last December to provide work on certain ordinary works first and afterwards to expand them as a measure of relief. There are some test works under the Famine Code in this area to see whether it is necessary to introduce regular relief works or not. In order that we may be able to meet possible expenditure, I move that the Government be granted a further sum of Rs. 2,75,000."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I move— 12-30 p.m.

'that the Demand of Rs. 2,75,000 *for Famine Relief—Reserved, be reduced by Rs.* 100'

in order to elicit information about the proposals of the Government and the progress made with reference to the Tungabhadra Project.

"Sir, the first point I would like to ask my hon. Friend about is what exactly are the Government's proposals with reference to famine or scarcity that is supposed to exist at present in the Bellary district? Up to June, I believe, the Government pursued the policy of expanding the local works carried on under the orders of the District Board. This system, as far as I have been able to ascertain from my friends in the Bellary district, has been giving satisfaction; and the wages earned by the workers, although they are not much, seemed on the whole to have given a fair amount of satisfaction. I would like to know why Government have now stopped these local board works and have started test works. The procedure no doubt is in accordance with the Famine Code; and apparently it has been based on the anticipation of the occurrence of what Government technically call 'famine'. I do not however know, Sir, the data on which this decision has been based.

"Before I proceed to make further remarks, I would like to draw the attention of my hon. friend the Revenue Member and of this House to the policy underlying the provisions of the Madras Famine Code. The Madras Famine Code, Sir, was drafted and brought into operation for dealing with cases of widespread famine at a time when communications and the progress and expansion of irrigation works were not what they are at present. Since those old days, communications have expanded, new lines of railway and new roads have been built, new irrigation works have come into existence; and to-day, Sir, except in the Ceded districts, one might well say that we would not have a recurrence of famine again in our province. The Ceded districts really remain to-day a blot on the administration; they have continued to be a blot in spite of incessant public demands, in spite of repeated suffering of the people, and in spite of repeated representations from all sides of this House that all measures

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should be taken for combating famine in those districts. Therefore, remove this blot and save the Ceded districts from the possibility of recurring famines.

"I was talking, Sir, about the Famine Code. The system underlying the Famine Code is based on what I may call barbarism. Ideas of helping the unemployed have changed all over the world; and to-day, Sir, I think India with its Famine Code stands unique in presenting to the world a spectacle of doles or famine wages that have no parallel anywhere else in the world.

"Sir, the policy that has been advocated by the numerous Famine Commissions that have sat to consider this question of the avoidance of famine and by the Irrigation Commission in addition, has been the construction of irrigation works drawing their supplies from unfailing sources; and they all thought that was the only satisfactory remedy. Government are aware of it; but to-day, as I have said, we remain where we were a hundred and fifty years ago. The question of the construction of a large irrigation work that would carry the fertilizing waters of the Tungabhadra river through these districts which are known to be subjected to repeated famines, has been considered by Commission after Commission. We have had investigation after investigation made, all with the same result,—that the estimates have been shelved for the time being. Last of all, we had an investigation recently, and now we are again told what we all know already—that this question is under correspondence with the Government of His Exalted Highness, the Mysore Government and so on and so forth. But what we would like to know, Sir, is whether Government cannot make up their mind once for all to get through with this scheme, to take such measures as may be necessary to arrive at an expeditious decision—a decision which can only be arrived at by the personal initiative and energy of the highest officers of Government who have to deal with this question.

"Sir, I hope my friend, the hon. the Revenue Member, will be able to give us a satisfactory answer to this question as to when they would arrive at a decision concerning the Tungabhadra project. Will he take it up as a personal matter and push through the scheme? For, if he does it, he will earn the everlasting gratitude of the many thousands inhabiting these districts, who have been time and again suffering unspeakable horrors from repeated famines. It is, Sir, a task which might fire the enthusiasm and energy of any man entrusted with it—a task of great magnitude and beneficence. I hope, Sir, my hon. Friend will rise to the occasion.

"Concerning the test works started, I was saying that the Famine Code as it stands to-day is a relic of the barbarous ideas that obtained thirty or forty years ago. One has only to look at the provisions of the Famine Code to find out the way in which the wages are arrived at, and also to realize how cruel and totally out of date these provisions are. In fact, I consider it necessary that the Government should alter the policy underlying the Famine Code altogether. My friend would no doubt tell me that that is a matter for the Government of India to decide; but

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surely this Government has a voice, and must have a powerful voice in deciding the policy in a matter of this kind. I would beg leave of the House, Sir, to read a sentence from the Introduction to the Famine Code:

'. . . Though the State is bound to protect the people from starvation in times of distress, it is no part of its duty to maintain them at their normal level of comfort or to insure them against all suffering, and that its interference should impair as little as possible the traditional and family obligations of the social system of the country, such, for instance, as those involved in the relationship of the members of a family, of landholder and farm-labourer, of master and servant, of alms-giver and alms-receiver.'

"Sir, I hope the Government will consider that this policy is entirely out of date. It certainly does not satisfy civilized opinion. It would not satisfy civilized opinion in any country of the world, and we ought therefore to protest against this policy here. In other countries where there is suffering and starvation, where there is unemployment, the Government comes to the relief of the people in the shape of free doles; but here, Sir, tasks are set to these poor suffering people, those tasks are enforced, and the wages are calculated on what Government call 'minimum rations'—just enough to keep body and soul together, to prevent death from starvation. That, Sir, they say is the policy of the Government, and that is the policy underlying the Famine Code—just to prevent people dying and nothing more. They can starve, they can deteriorate—and the Famine Code is blind and deaf to all that. They just give these people enough food to prevent them from death. Sir, I must protest against this policy, and in view of the situation in the Bellary district, in view of the dissatisfaction which these test works that have been started have created, and in view of the fact that there are many more useful ways of spending public money on public works of utility, I hope that the Government will see their way to continue the policy they were adopting hitherto, of providing relief to the unemployed by the construction and the continuation of ordinary public works of utility."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The amendment is that the Demand of Rs. 2,75,000 be reduced by Rs. 100.

"Mr. Koti Reddi's amendment is covered by this amendment, and therefore he may speak on this amendment."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have given notice of a similar amendment with a view to raise the same question, viz., whether the Government, instead of giving relief by taking up ordinary road works, will not be well-advised in spending the money on the proposed Tungabhadra project. It may be, Sir, that the Government may not come to a decision on this project for some years or even for a century; but everybody must admit that there must come a time when it will be taken up. At present the project is ready. The areas through which the big canals have to run are well-known and defined, and there is nothing more to trouble the Government, if they only make up their mind to spend money on those works which are immediately necessary for taking

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up the Tungabhadra project. It may be, as I said, that Government may not be able to decide at once to take up the project; but seeing the necessity for a project of this magnitude, seeing the insistent demand for such a project in the Ceded Districts, seeing that it would save millions of people in those parts from famine, seeing also that there is a great amount of water available which is at present running to waste, Government may very well consider the advisability of spending this amount on the project. Seeing that all these conditions necessary for a big project are there, cannot the Government make up its mind, in the hope that this project will be taken up one day or the other, to spend money on the construction of the proposed big canals, etc., in the Tungabhadra project, instead of spending money on road works which are ill-maintained? We
12-45 p.m. cannot say whether the district boards are maintaining or can maintain the roads in good condition. So, Sir, Government will see its way to spend its money for the purpose of digging main canals, subsidiary canals, etc., in the Tungabhadra project. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar said, I appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member within the short time that may be available for this Government under the present system, to take up the project in right earnest, if necessary, with the concurrence of the Nizam's Government and the Mysore Government, and complete it within a reasonable period. The Ceded Districts Committee, I believe, recommended the Malappuram site for the reservoir. I once again appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member to take up this project on hand, and whether he comes to any conclusion about the desirability of the project being taken up in the near future or not, the money would be better spent if it is spent on digging canals under the Tungabhadra project immediately."

* Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"Mr. President, Sir, the Government have been less than fair to the people affected by distress in the Bellary district. You will find from the Press Communiqué issued on 29th June 1932 that the Government were fully aware of the acute conditions prevailing in certain areas of that district. In order to afford some relief to the people affected, they started in December last several works and they gave the management thereof to the district boards. In doing so, they did not initiate any new policy, but they simply carried out the policy once pursued in 1927 and, I venture to say, successfully pursued. That went on up to April when conditions became worse and the Collector and the local authorities asked that more works should be started and the Government accordingly sanctioned additional works. But after a month or so, I believe, the Finance Department thought that, if the money which was being spent on these works was to be debited to the famine grant, the works should be carried on under the provisions of the Famine Code. One would expect, when such an objection was taken by the Finance Department, all that the Government should have done was to start famine relief works, because they were convinced of the distress, they had been carrying on the work for nearly four or five months and the works had been attracting a large number of people. If the Government had felt that they were technically wrong,

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all that they should have done was to start relief works under the provisions of the Famine Code. But, instead of doing that, they wanted to start things right from the beginning by starting some test works to satisfy themselves whether there was distress in the area or not. You will see, Sir, from the figures furnished in the answers given to-day, that these works, with a higher standard of outturn, with less of wages and more of disabilities, still attracted a considerable large number of people. I find the works attracted as many as about 18,000 or 19,000 people; the number fell down, it again rose, but at any rate the figure remains somewhere about 13,000. (The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell: 12,000.) I stand corrected. How long is this test work to go on? You may ask me what is your objection to it? The work may be called by any name, but so long as works are in progress, people get some work to do though at some low wages. There is this difference between conditions which obtain under the test work system and the conditions which obtain under the famine relief system. I will enumerate them one by one. When the works are called test works, the coolies are asked to do somewhat more than they would be asked to do if the works are called relief works. This is number one. Under this system, they do not work on all the seven days of the week but they have what is called a rest day every week and on that day they do not work and get no wages at all. Whereas, if the works are called famine relief works, they will be paid wages for all the days in the week, including the rest day. Again, Sir, when the works are called test works, the dependents of the coolies who are actually working, do not get any relief at all; whereas, if it is relief work, the dependents of coolies who are actually working are fed in the kitchen. There is also gratuitous relief given to the disabled and the destitute.

"Now, Sir, the absence of facilities that would accrue to them if the works are relief works, is a very serious handicap to the people affected and I think the attitude of the Government in this matter is quite unjustifiable from my point of view. If they wanted to satisfy themselves of the need for relief works they have had more than ample time for it. Normally, 15 days is a reasonable time within which they may satisfy themselves whether the period of test should end and relief works should be taken on hand or not. In 1921, this very question was gone into and the then Member for Anantapur, Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai, and myself tabled a resolution and carried it in this House, to the effect that a committee should go into this matter thoroughly. Accordingly a committee was appointed and one of the things they had to enquire into was this, namely, the stringency of the test work conditions. The hardships complained of were: (1) that no allowances are given to dependents; (2) that no deductions are made for distances travelled; (3) that the interval between the test stage and the declaration of famine is long; (4) that the tasks enforced are high; and (5) that rest-day allowances are not given. That Committee went into these questions in detail and they came to some definite conclusions in regard to all of them. For example, as regards the last point they held that, 'there need be no rest-day nor any allowances therefor, but the workers should be permitted

to work on all days in the week '. They said that the distance should be calculated in assessing the outturn of work and they were emphatically of the opinion that the interval between the test stage and the declaration of famine should be the minimum possible. If, after 15 days, it was found that the test works done did not draw enough number of people, well, they might close the works and treat them as ordinary works. They went on to say that if the test works attracted a large number of people, then the works should be converted into relief works. I am quite aware of the fact that there is no categorical mention of the period within which a test work should be converted into a relief work. But, anybody who goes through the whole report, through the terms of the subsequent reference to the Committee, the order passed on that report and the report of the Committee and the modifications effected in the Famine Code, cannot but come to the conclusion that it was never contemplated that the test period should be prolonged to as long as two months, as it has been done in the present stage. In fact, you find in the Committee's report: 'We wish further to emphasize the fact that there should be no avoidable delay in converting test works into relief works '. That was the report of the Committee. At that time, there was an impression on the part of certain Government officials that the test works should continue as long as two months at least. About this, the Committee's view was—and the Government also agreed with the Committee—' in the tracts visited, we have noticed a mistaken impression on the part of some officials that the period of two months above referred to applies not only to the distribution of gratuitous relief, but also to the continuous attendance of a large number of workers. To avoid undesirable results of this misconception, we suggest the insertion of an explanatory note at the foot of the section '. In regard to the declaration of relief works, they gave power to the Board to say that the test works should be converted into relief works. They further stated, ' to go further, i.e., to seek in addition Government's approval for the conversion of the test works into relief work is in our opinion to court delay in a matter which brooks none and possibly to impose needless suffering at a stage when it has to be avoided most '. That is the remark of the Committee in this matter and the Government also agreed with them and modified the section in the Famine Code accordingly. Now, when all that has been done, it seems rather strange that the Government should be hesitating over this matter.

" The other day, the hon. the Revenue Member went over this area, and I dare say he has visited some of the places and seen many of the conditions under which these people work. He might probably have seen one or two coolies in a gang not working for full time. Probably, they had gone after the day's work of eight hours or after finishing their work early, or they might have gone to pick up some fuel for cooking. But, to base upon that general conclusion and to say that the people are not in need of any relief, I think, would be dangerous. The Famine Code does not give them anything for procuring fuel. I do not think the hon. the Revenue Member went into all the details of the matter or tried to find out the special circumstances under which the particular gang which he saw closed their work early and went away. Whatever it

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may be, the very fact that as many as 12,000 people are working here day after day for a small wage shows conclusively that real distress exists there and there can be no reason whatsoever for delaying the conversion of these test works into relief works.

"In the Press Communiqué of the 29th June 1932, Government say that they have not seen signs of emaciation on the part of these people and so they would wait for some time more before they convert these test works into relief works. I think this is a dangerous position on the part of the Government to take, and it would be dangerous to wait for four or five months. I would also like to remind the hon. the Revenue Member that the Government should not think that the present famine policy is really to wait for emaciation and then give relief. Order on the report of the Committee is clear and the Government's principal business in famine relief has now come to be rather one of dealing with the unemployed and not of dealing with the absence or scarcity of food supplies. That was the position taken up by Government in 1923. I presume the Government have not changed their attitude since. Sir, in other countries, in England for example, unemployed are given cash doles, without any work being exacted. There the unemployed get about 15 sh. a week without doing anything to earn it. Here, we do not give the people anything without getting work from them in return for the money paid. All that is asked for is, give the people some work to do and then pay them, not what they would be getting in normal times, but just enough to enable them to make both ends meet. The wage that is given to these people is merely a subsistence wage and is not even sufficient for the actual needs of the worker concerned. It is not enough to feed the dependents of the people or the disabled persons dependent on them. I would only appeal to the Government to give up their indifferent, unsympathetic attitude in this matter and lose no time in ending this test work and beginning regular relief works." 1 p.m.

* Mr. G. LAKSHMANA REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to speak a few words on this motion, and in doing so I should like to bring to the notice of the Government that the Ceded districts are hard hit in the matter of irrigation facilities. I think we ought to have got the Tungabhadra Scheme long before the Mettur Project. (Laughter.) Because, Sir, our parts have entirely to depend on rainfall for cultivation, and it is a well-known fact that we do not get sufficient rainfall in our parts. Of course, there are some tanks; they came into existence in the old, old days; but most of them have become silted up and our kind Government have not taken any steps to remove the accumulated silt, so much so these tanks are now of no use for cultivating crops.

"Then, Sir, some of our rivers are dammed up; the Pennar, the Hagari, the Jayamangali and the Chitravati are dammed up by the Mysore Government contrary to the agreement between the British Government and the Mysore Government. We have approached the British Government to see that that agreement is given effect to, but till now nothing has been done.

"Then, Sir, the Tungabhadra Project is hanging in the air and it is not known when it will become an accomplished fact. As such, I

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request Government to realize that it is high time that something should be done by way of irrigation facilities to the ryots of the Ceded districts.

"With these words I support the motion."

* The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, some hon. Members on the other side of the House have referred to irrigation projects to benefit the Ceded districts and more especially to the Tungabhadra Project. They were anxious that that scheme should be pushed through, and they said that they would like to know how that scheme stands. I have on several previous occasions explained that we are carrying on negotiations with the Hyderabad Government and also with the Bombay Government and the Mysore Government, which are also affected by the scheme as the waters of the Tungabhadra pass through their territories or along their borders. I can assure hon. Members that I have been taking a personal interest in furthering this project. (Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: 'Hear hear.') Some time ago when I was acting as Irrigation Member I laid a suggestion to the Chief Engineer that we should endeavour to find another site for the main reservoir which would avoid submerging a portion of the Hyderabad territory either by making the dam higher up the river or by storing water in a reservoir not on the river itself, as in the case of the Sangam Project on the Pennar. These proposals were investigated and an alternative site for a dam on the river was selected. The erection of this dam will however lead to the submergence of a portion of Mysore State and Bombay presidency and we shall have to negotiate with them instead of the Hyderabad Government if that site is finally adopted. It appeared however possible that a joint scheme could be devised in the execution of which the Hyderabad Government might co-operate with us. I went to Hyderabad and placed this proposal before that Government and I am glad to say that they expressed their readiness to investigate this proposal and suggested that we should have a general investigation. Since then, the Hyderabad Government have, I believe, been investigating the possibility of utilizing Tungabhadra water on their side of the river, and I hope before long they will be in a position to forward their proposals, and then we can have a joint investigation of the scheme, as a result of which I hope that something may be done which will benefit the country on both sides of the river. That is the present position of the scheme. I can only now repeat, what I have already said, that I am most anxious to see this project pushed forward. I do realize the vital importance of the scheme to the people of the Ceded districts in the area affected by the project; and it is my desire that we should be able to start the Tungabhadara Project as soon as the Mettur Project is completed, so that we can utilize on the former much of the machinery that is being now used on the latter. That has been my aim all along and I can assure hon. Members that the scheme is being pushed forward as speedily as possible.

"As regards the damming up of the Pennar and the Hagari, the Local Government are carrying on correspondence with the Mysore

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Government in that matter and endeavouring to set matters right in accordance with the Agreement which was signed many years ago by the Mysore and Madras Governments.

"As regards the Famine Code, to which Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar and Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar referred as being somewhat out of date and founded on conditions which no longer exist, I would remind them that though the Famine Code was started when conditions were very different from the present, it has been modified from time to time and has been considerably revised in comparatively recent years. We have taken into consideration the fact that communications have very much improved of late, thereby affecting the supply of grains and foodstuffs to all parts of the Presidency; we no longer depend for indications of famine upon local prices, because they are generally determined now more by outside conditions than by those subsisting in the particular areas concerned. I can remember days when we had to report periodically, I think once a month or once a week, whether famine price level had been reached. Those days are now gone, as that is no longer regarded as an adequate test. The object of the Famine Code is to prevent the waste of Government money in giving relief where it is really not necessary. It is the practice here for agricultural workers to receive such wages during the agricultural season as would enable them to tide over the slack season. The landowners and the ryots have to pay wages accordingly. I am quite sure if we started a work in the middle of the Kistna Delta in March or April we should get a certain number of people to come to it. Test works, admittedly, do not give such good conditions as full relief work, which are started only when it has been decided that it is necessary for the Government to do everything in its power to save people from starvation.

"Now, as regards the conditions existing in the Bellary district I recently paid a visit there. Various works are being carried out. These are road works and are useful; they will be handed over to local boards which will, I hope, complete and maintain them. These works are being carried out as test works under the Famine Code. As I have already observed the rates are raised 25 per cent over the rates provided in the Famine Code, because the price of condiments has not fallen to the same extent as that of the staple food, cholam. I went round some of the works. There are nominally seven test works; in fact, there are really 13 works, some of the works being clubbed together, though separated by some miles. I also visited certain villages and a market on market-day and made all sorts of inquiries. The works have only been recently organized as test works. The test works are cheaper now than when they were in the hands of the local board, as the board was paying higher rates of wages. During the last month the work of organization has been going on, but this cannot be done very easily and it is only now that the organization is becoming satisfactory. Auditors have only been recently appointed by the Accountant-General. It requires a certain amount of time to organize the works and administration so as to ensure that Government money is spent economically and that wages are fully paid to the coolies.

"Well, Sir, I found the condition of the people everywhere to be, what I would call, normal. There is no reason to think that they are unduly suffering. I do not say that if we had not taken these measures the people would not be in a worse condition than they are now. But I cannot say that I am satisfied that it is necessary that we should convert these works into relief works.

"As regards the particular works to which my hon. Friend referred, I found the labourers leaving the works early, about 2-30 or 3 o'clock. I inquired of them why they were going away so early and they replied that they were going for their meals and would come back; on inquiry, however I learnt they never did return after going off for their meals in the afternoon. I heard complaints on that work that the labourers were earning only one anna six pies instead of two annas one pie, and on inquiry I found the real cause to be what I have just narrated. There is no necessity for them to go away early and they could earn more if they stopped the whole day at the work."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"Is it a daily-wage system, or a piece-wage system?"

* The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"A combination of both. If they had done their task they get a full wage, and if they go away before doing the full task, they are paid less according to the amount of work done.

"Another work I found on the same road some three or four miles off. There too I found workmen going away at 3-30. In consequence, I must say I had some doubt whether it is necessary to keep that test work any longer, but as I was told that there was only a little more earth work to be done—there are only two gaps to be filled—and that it will take a fortnight or so to finish the work, I told the Collector that it is not necessary to close it at once, but the earthwork might be completed first."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether there is no limit to their hours of work? Are they to work all the 12 hours?"

1-15 p.m. * The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"In most of the works they come about 8 o'clock or later and leave at about 4-30 or 5, I believe. On one work I visited there was nobody on the work at all in the afternoon. I was not going to mention that case as in that particular case there had been a very heavy shower of rain which would have rendered work very difficult. As regards the other works, I found the gangs were generally earning the full wage allowed by the Code. At the same time the condition of the people either on the works or in the villages was not such as to indicate the necessity for the immediate conversion of the test works into relief works. As I mentioned, the gangs are divided into three classes with different wages and work and the gangs are formed according to the work to be done. Recently we had a census report on wages. This census was held once in five years. In last year's report I find in the Bellary district the wages paid in cash to men who were sowers and transplanters were As. 2-11 in black-soil tracts and